

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stem portion for a toothbrush for delivering fluid supplied from at least one reservoir to at least one exit opening in a bristle plate with bristles, comprising:

a stem body having an interior longitudinal opening; and

~~a core member configured to fit within the stem body opening, wherein the stem body and/or the core member have at least one groove extending therealong, wherein the stem body and the core member each have at least two grooves along the lengths thereof, wherein one groove in an inner surface of the stem body and one groove in an outer surface of the core member form a first stem channel, and wherein a second groove in the inner surface of the stem body and a second groove in the outer surface of the core member form a second stem channel, for delivery of fluids to the bristle plate wherein said at least one groove receives fluid at one end of the stem portion and delivers fluid to the bristle plate opening.~~

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the core member includes a coupling element at a distal end thereof, which includes grooved portions which communicate with the first and second channels in the stem body and which are adapted to receive fluid pathway channels from the reservoir.

4. (original) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the bristle plate includes fluid pathway portions which extend from the first and second channels in the stem portion to exit openings in the bristle plate, permitting fluid to move therethrough to the bristles.

5. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the first and second channels are opposed, approximately 180° apart.

6. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the core member includes two extending crushable ribs and the stem body includes two mating key slots, adapted to provide a fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

7. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the core member includes two extending ribs and the stem body includes two mating key slots, adapted to provide a friction-fit fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

8. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the core member includes two extending ribs which are welded to the stem body to provide a fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

9. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein the first and second channels are approximately circular.

10. (currently amended) The stem portion of claim 2, 1, wherein one channel extends to one exit opening in the bristle plate and the other channel extends to another exit opening in the bristle plate.

11. (currently amended) A stem portion for a toothbrush for delivering fluid supplied from at least one reservoir to at least one exit opening in a bristle plate with bristles, comprising:

a ~~first~~ stem body portion; and

a ~~second~~ stem core body portion adapted to be fitted with within the ~~first~~ stem body portion in a fluid-tight relationship, wherein ~~interior surfaces~~ an inner surface of the ~~first and second~~ stem body portions portion and an outer surface of the stem core portion have

grooves therein which are configured to together define two separate channels therealong for delivery of fluid to said bristle plate opening.

12. (original) The stem portion of claim 11, wherein one channel extends to one opening in the bristle plate and the other channel extends to a second opening in the bristle plate.